

WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

PORT ANGELES, WASHINGTON
SEPTEMBER 15, 2005

The Washington State Conservation Commission (Commission/WSCC) met in regular session September 15, 2005 at the Red Lion in Port Angeles, Washington. Commission Chair Peters called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. Commissioner Eriksen attended telephonically.

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS & ACTION ITEMS

1. *Puget Sound Regional Recovery Plan*

Mr. Clark will write a letter to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Division to express the concerns and request an extension of time so that public comments can be considered.

2. *Approval of Consent Agenda*

Commissioner Selby moved to approve the July 14, 2005 Meeting Minutes and travel to the NACD Winter 2005 Meeting for the Executive Director, Chair and Vice Chair. Commissioner Stoker seconded. Motion passed.

3. *WACD Issues Committees Travel Request*

Vice Chair Brown moved to approve the WACD Issues Committees Request for \$3,000 per committee to cover expenses. Commissioner Barker seconded. Motion passed.

The Commission requested that the individual committees give a brief report to the Commission by the May 2006 Commission Planning Session.

4. *Conservation District Report Card*

A discussion on penalties will be held at a future meeting.

5. *South Douglas Conservation District Request*

Vice Chair Brown moved to approve South Douglas Conservation District Cost Share Application and Agreements expenditures incurred after board authorization of the program since the district training session provided by Grants Staff was successful. Commissioner Barker seconded. Motion passed.

6. *WACD Livestock Committee Recommendation*

Vice Chair Brown moved to approve the Livestock cost share funding distribution recommended by the WACD Livestock Committee for the 2005-07 Biennium. Commissioner Stoker seconded. Commissioner Eriksen abstained. Motion passed.

Commissioner Bahrych moved to amend the motion to include at the end of the first sentence on the third paragraph of the second page of the WACD memo request submitted "...subject to the Washington State Conservation Commission approval." Commissioner Adams seconded. Motion passed.

7. *WACD District Operations Committee Request – Basic Funding*

The Commission requested comments by the WACD Officers and Directors be included in the final recommendation to the Commission.

Carolyn Kelly requested that a special Commission meeting be held telephonically before the end of October for final recommendation and approval.

It was noted that recommendations from the Field Services Managers would be appreciated.

8. District Appointed Positions Update

WACD District Operations Committee is currently working on the District Appointed Procedures. A letter and draft revised policy will go back to the group and then sent out to the districts for comment.

9. Data Management Technology Plan

It was suggested to take a look at the information that is available within the districts. A discussion with the districts will take place.

10. WSCC Position Statements

Commissioner Bahrych moved to archive the identified positions that are no longer relevant and revise those that are determined to be relevant to the WSCC Strategic Plan.

Commissioner Stoker seconded. Motion passed.

Commission staff will draft the positions identified for revision and bring forward at future meetings. The Commission will determine if new position statements will be created.

11. WSCC 2006 Schedule

Vice Chair Brown moved to approve the 2006 Commission Meeting Schedule. Commissioner Selby seconded. Motion passed.

January 18, 2006	Field Tour/Interaction Dinner	Thurston Conservation District
January 19, 2006	Commission Meeting	Lacey, WA
March 15, 2006	Field Tour/Interaction Dinner	King Co. Conservation District
March 16, 2006	Commission Meeting	Seattle, WA
May 16, 2006	Field Tour/Interaction Dinner	Hosted by:
Special Meeting		Kittitas Co. County Conservation District
May 17, 2006	Planning Meeting	Ellensburg, WA
May 18, 2006	Commission Meeting	Ellensburg, WA
July 19, 2006	Field Tour/Interaction Dinner	Clark Conservation District
July 20, 2006	Commission Meeting	To be determined
September 20, 2006	Field Tour/Interaction Dinner	Whidbey Island Conservation District
September 21, 2006	Commission Meeting	To be determined
November 30, 2006	Commission Meeting	Spokane

12. Revised Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Representative Policy

Vice Chair Brown moved to approve the proposed revised Natural Resources Conservation Service Representative Policy. Commissioner Boyum seconded. Motion passed.

13. Proposed Revised Commission Member, Designees and Executive Director Travel

The Commission requested that the policy be simplified. Commission staff will revise and bring forward at a future Commission Meeting.

14. School Fire

Commissioner Boyum moved to empower the staff to seek funding for conservation practices to mitigate the effects of the fire. After funding is sought from other sources, the Commission approves funding at a maximum of \$200,000 for the school fire, with the proper nexus and understanding that an attempt will be made to ask the legislature to refill the operating budget with a maximum of \$200,000. Vice Chair Brown seconds. Motion passed.

WSCC Resolution No. 05-01 School Fire was created.

15. Supplemental Funding Request

A decision package for federal spending authority will be requested. The Commission directed the Executive Director to move forward.

1 **16. 25 by 25 Ag Role**

2 Commissioner Bahrych suggested the Commission take it under advisement until Commission
3 members have the opportunity to read the endorsement request. Mark Clark will research and
4 communicate with the Commissioners.

5 **17. Nominating Committee for WSCC Chair and Vice Chair**

6 The Nominating Committee was formed with the following members: Commissioner Boyum,
7 Commissioner Stoker and Gus Hughbanks of NRCS.

8 The Committee will bring a recommendation forward at the December 2005 Commission Meeting.

10 **ATTENDEES**

11 **Commission Members**

12 Jim Peters, Chair
13 Lynn Brown, Vice Chair
14 Bill Boyum, Member, DNR
15 Lynn Bahrych, Member
16 Robert Barker, Member
17 Paul Stoker, Member, WACD
18 Tracy Eriksen, Member
19 Melodie Selby, Member, ECY
20 Ed Adams, Member, WSU

Commission Staff

Mark Clark, Executive Director
Mary Anderson, Executive Assistant
Stu Trefry, Field Service Manager
Debbie Becker, Administrative Programs
Cheryl Witt, Contracts Specialist
Debbie Skogen, Grants Staff

22 **Guests**

23 Rafael Guerrero, NRCS
24 Fred Colvin, WACD
25 Carolyn Kelly, Skagit CD
26 George Boggs, WADE, Whatcom CD

Joe Holtrop, Clallam CD
Rod Hamilton, FSA
Chuck Perry, F&W Commission
John Larson, WACD Executive Director

28 **ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA**

29 Chair Peters opened discussion for additions or changes to the preliminary agenda.

30 Mark Clark, Executive Director, noted that additional informational documents for items on the agenda
31 will be added.

33 **INTRODUCTIONS & MEMBER/PARTNERSHIP REPORTS**

34 **Rod Hamilton, Farm Service Agency (FSA)**

35 *Rental Rates – Nationwide review. Public hearings are being held.*

36 **Rafael Guerrero, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**

37 *Washington DC – Gus Hughbanks will be there for three months. Mr. Guerrero is filling in for him.*

38 *Budget Closeout – Reviewing the 2006 conservation program. Plenty of budget issues.*

39 *Katrina Hurricane – Contracting consultants.*

40 *Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQUIP) – Sage grouse and water. 433 contracts at this date.*

41 *Schoolhouse Fire – Will discuss in the meeting.*

Commissioner Boyum, Department of Natural Resources

Fire Season – Damage control and upkeep. Focus on erosion issues.

Commissioner Adams, WSU College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resources

Plant Biosciences Building – Opening in October 2005.

Commissioner Eriksen, WACD Central Representative

Conservation Security Program – The Pend Oreille CD is engaged.

Commissioner Bahrych, Washington Environmental Council

Governor's Livestock Dairy Operations Committee – Met on July 19th. A letter was written to the

Governor to recommend that the conservation districts be included in the legislation. State and federal law should be incorporated.

Commissioner Stoker, Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD)

WACD Committees Transition Meeting – A meeting took place in Ellensburg last week and was very good

WACD Officers and Directors Meeting – September 21, 2005 in Ellensburg.

WACD 2005 Annual Meeting – Will be held the end of November in Yakima. Olin Simms will be a guest speaker.

Commissioner Selby, Department of Ecology (Ecology)

Livestock Issues – Closer agreements are being reached. There is a question if there will be legislation this session.

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) – There is a plan to start up the reissuance process.

Public notices will be heard on December 1st in Yakima.

Puget Sound Initiative – Ecology is still working on it.

Vice Chair Brown, WACD Eastern Representative

Governor's Livestock Dairy Operations Committee – Commissioner Brown is on the Committee

representing WACD. WACD wrote a letter to the Governor stating they like the verification process that was recommended initially.

PMC – \$30,000 profit. Districts are encouraged to use the facility.

WACD Representative on Commission – Term will expire this year but intends to run again.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments were given.

DECEMBER 2004 WSCC COMMISSION MEETING ACTION UPDATES

Mark Clark, Executive Director, provided an update of the agency action items from the July 2005 Commission Meeting.

- **Puget Sound Regional Recovery Plan** – Mark Clark met with Bill Ruckelshaus, Chair of the Salmon Recovery and Funding Board (SRFB) and spoke about the concerns (Skagit). Concern was expressed by Mr. Ruckelshaus as well.

The issue was brought up at the SRFB meeting. Several other entities joined in. It was agreed that there was a lack of clarity in the process. Meetings will be planned. A letter of encouragement for more collaboration, extending deadline, and looking at that process would be helpful so that a valid product would be brought forward.

A lengthy discussion followed. Mr. Clark will write a letter to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Division to express the concerns and request an extension of time so that public comments can be considered. Commissioners Bahrych and Peters will review.

- 1 ■ **WACD Annual Meeting Contribution** – At the Commission 2005 July Meeting a discussion was
2 held on finding ways to increase attendance to the WACD Annual Meeting and increasing supervisor
3 and district training.
- 4 John Larson, WACD Executive Director, suggested that a no cost ‘new supervisor’ training offered by
5 the Commission would be helpful.
- 6 Vice Chair Brown suggested that the WACD President write a letter to the supervisors encouraging
7 them to attend and participate in any training that is offered.
- 8 Mr. Larson assured the Commission that the issues raised at the 2004 WACD Annual Meeting from
9 Mr. Bertish have been resolved.

11 **APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

12 Chair Peters opened the consent agenda.

13 Vice Chair Brown requested the proposed Draft Commission Member, Designees and Executive Director
14 Travel Policy be pulled from the Consent Agenda and discussed under Commission Operations.

15 **Commissioner Selby moved to approve the July 14, 2005 Meeting Minutes ,**
16 **and travel to the NACD Winter 2005 Meeting for the Executive Director,**
17 **Chair and Vice Chair. Commissioner Stoker seconded. Motion passed.**

19 **WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS (WACD)**

20 ***WACD Issues Committees Travel Expenses***

21 John Larson, WACD Executive Director, presented an overview of the committees which include: Farm
22 Bill Policy Committee; Forestry Committee; District Operations Committee; Urban, Community and
23 Coastal Resources Committee; Livestock Committee; Irrigation Committee; and the Conservation Reserve
24 Enhancement Program (CREP) Committee.

25 Cheryl Witt, Contracts Specialist, noted the historical funding for the committees travel expenses. Grants
26 are funded through the committee chairs’ district and are available for them to use for reimbursement of
27 the committees travel expenses. Ms. Witt encouraged the committees to use this funding.

28 **Vice Chair Brown moved to approve the WACD Issues Committees Request**
29 **for \$3,000 per committee to cover expenses. Commissioner Barker seconded.**
30 **Motion passed.**

31 A discussion followed. The goal of the committees is to help with the submittal of the Commission’s
32 budget and legislation issues.

33 The Commission requested that individual committees give a brief report to the Commission by the May
34 2006 Commission Planning Session.

36 **WSCC GRANTS PROGRAM**

37 ***Grants Staff Report***

38 Cheryl Witt, Contracts Specialist, reported that Karla Huttula was hired to replace Debbie Skogen. Ms.
39 Skogen will be retiring November 18, 2005.

40 The Grants Staff are in the process of closing out grants and initiating new ones. Commission Grant
41 Reviews (CGRs) continue. Budget requests to include Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the
42 Practice Incentive Payments (PIP) loan process are underway.

1 ***Conservation District Report Card***

2 Ms. Witt presented the Grants CD Report Card. All of the Report of Accomplishments have been received.
3 Overall, the districts are doing well.

4 A discussion followed regarding deadlines that are in place that must be met so the Commission staff can
5 meet their deadlines. A discussion on penalties will be held at a future meeting.

6 ***South Douglas Conservation District***

7 Ms. Witt reported on the training session that took place at the South Douglas Conservation District. The
8 session was attended by a supervisor, district manager, district staff, Butch Ogden (Field Service
9 Manager), Kristy McGuill (Grants Staff), and Ms. Witt. The Commission's vouchering process, cost share
10 policy and procedures were discussed. Positive feedback was received by the district.

11 Ms. Witt reported that 38 out of 41 South Douglas Conservation District final grant voucher soil testing
12 cost share agreement expenditures were initially denied payment by grants staff since the expenditures
13 were incurred before being authorized by the board. After discussions with Mark Clark, it was decided to
14 deny only those cost share expenditures (12 agreements, totaling \$2,088.18) incurred before the South
15 Douglas Board formally approved their soil testing cost share program. Cost share expenses incurred after
16 board authorization of the program, but before "Cost Share Application & Agreements" were approved by
17 the board (29, totaling \$10,861.05) were approved for payment only after Commission grants staff
18 provided a successful training at the district.

19 Ms. Witt recommended that the Commission approve, with the exception of the 12 cost share expenses
20 incurred before the District Board authorized the program, reimbursement of the remaining 29 Cost Share
21 Application and Agreements.

22 **Vice Chair Brown moved to approve South Douglas Conservation District**
23 **Cost Share Application and Agreements expenditures incurred after board**
24 **authorization of the program since the district training session provided by**
25 **Grants Staff was successful. Commissioner Barker seconded. Motion**
26 **passed.**

27 ***Closeout Comments from Districts***

28 Ms Witt thanked the districts for the comments that were received and appreciated their feedback.

29 ***WACD Livestock Committee Recommendation***

30 John Larson, WACD Executive Director, reported that the process has been challenging. Many hours have
31 been spent on the issues surrounding livestock.

32 Mr. Larson presented the WACD Livestock Committee cost share allocation recommendation. Priorities
33 were based on producers of production agriculture or commercial facilities. The district boards will
34 approve applications based on knowledge that the facility is a commercial facility and will verify the
35 operations on their own set criteria.

36 A lengthy discussion followed. Concerns about consistency, different sets of criteria, and pasture based
37 operations were expressed. Mr. Larson stated that those concerns were addressed by the Committee.

38 Commissioner Adams asked Ms. Witt about the contracts and establishing criteria. A checkbox could be
39 added to the contract to make it simple.

40 **Vice Chair Brown moved to approve the Livestock cost share funding**
41 **distribution recommended by the WACD Livestock Committee for the**
42 **2005-07 Biennium. Commissioner Stoker seconded. Commissioner Eriksen**
43 **abstained. Motion passed.**

1 **Commissioner Bahrych moved to amend the motion to include at the end of**
2 **the first sentence on the third paragraph of the second page of the WACD**
3 **memo request submitted "...subject to the Washington State Conservation**
4 **Commission approval." Commissioner Adams seconded. Motion passed.**

5 A discussion followed regarding intent of funding and caution on setting criteria.

6
7 **COMMISSION RECOGNITION**

8 ***Clallam Conservation District***

9 Commission Chair Peters thanked Joe Holtrop of the Clallam Conservation District and staff for hosting
10 the Commission tour and interaction dinner. Both the tour and interaction dinner were well attended.

11 ***Debbie Skogen, Grants Staff***

12 The Commission recognized Debbie Skogen for her many years of service for the Commission and
13 conservation districts. Ms. Skogen will be retiring on November 18, 2005. Chair Peters presented a plaque
14 of appreciation and gift basket.

15
16 **BASIC FUNDING**

17 ***WACD District Operations Committee (DOC) Draft Recommendation***

18 Carolyn Kelly, Committee Member, presented the draft recommendation from the District Operations
19 Committee for the Fiscal Year 2006-07 Capacity Building Grant (Basic Funding).

20 The Committee met and brought the draft before the WACD Tuesday Leadership Group. After
21 presentation to the Commission, the recommendation will be brought before the WACD Officers and
22 Directors for review and approval then sent to the districts for review and comment. After the districts
23 have reviewed, the recommendation will be brought before the WACD Officers and Directors. The
24 Commission requested comments by the WACD Officers and Directors be included in the final
25 recommendation to the Commission.

26 A Committee meeting is scheduled for October 14th to review the comments and prepare a final
27 recommendation for the Commission.

28 A discussion followed on ranking criteria for funding. A cap was discussed and recommendation from
29 staff to weigh criteria based on districts overall adherence to meeting Commission deadlines. The true
30 needs for capacity will be considered when ranking districts.

31 Ms. Kelly requested that a special Commission meeting be held telephonically before the end of October
32 for final recommendation and approval.

33 A discussion followed. It was noted that recommendations from the Field Service Managers would be
34 appreciated.

35
36 **CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)**

37 ***CREP Review***

38 Debbie Becker, Administrative Programs, gave an update on the CREP Review.

39 An environmental and financial assessment will be presented at the March 2006 Commission Meeting.

40 Carol Smith, Technical Coordinator, is currently working on the environmental assessment. Ms. Smith is
41 performing an in-depth review of the CREP program to determine whether the program has performed to
42 meet the goals the program intended. Site visits are included in this review.

1 The financial assessment has not begun. Sensitivity on how to perform the financial review will be taken
2 into account in recognizing the early years of the program so that a fair assessment can be made.

3 A discussion followed on collecting data and how it can be used in the future. The information gathered
4 will be helpful in CREP Phase 2.

5 ***CREP Comments***

6 Commissioner Barker stated in a memo that the Commission is accountable to the State for ensuring the
7 CREP funds are well spent and suggested that a Commission staff member devote full time to the program
8 and to provide staff support to other groups.

9 A discussion followed regarding CREP Phase 2. The CREP Review information will be needed.
10 Collaboration from both WACD and the Commission is necessary.

12 **LEGAL BUSINESS**

13 ***District Appointed Positions Update***

14 The Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) District Operations Committee is
15 currently working on the District Appointed Procedures. More time is needed. A letter and a draft revised
16 policy will go back to the group and then sent out to the districts for comment.

17 ***Elections into Rules Update***

18 Mark Clark, Executive Director, stated that a meeting was held with Sharonne O'Shea, Assistant Attorney
19 General and Commission staff on rulemaking. Tom Salzer, Field Service Manager and Ray Ledgerwood,
20 Programs Coordinator, have informed the WACD District Operations Committee that the Commission
21 would like to put elections into rule.

23 **COMMISSION OPERATIONS**

24 ***Data Management Technology Plan***

25 Commission staff have met with the Office of Financial Management (OFM) and the Department of
26 Informational Services and created a plan.

27 A Request for Proposal (RFP) in hiring a project manager to begin the work is the first step. The project
28 manager will help prepare an RFP for a feasibility study and will be completed by January 2006. The
29 feasibility study will be compatible and fit with other state agencies needs, the Governor's needs, and
30 district needs. The feasibility study is due to be presented to legislators in December 2006.

31 It was suggested to take a look at the information that is available within the districts. A discussion with
32 the districts will take place.

33 ***WSCC Position Statements***

34 Commissioner Bahrych summarized the work session on position policies. After review of the current
35 position statements, some are no longer relevant and will be archived. Those that are relevant will be
36 revised.

37 **Commissioner Bahrych moved to archive the identified positions that are no**
38 **longer relevant and revise those that are determined to be relevant to the**
39 **WSCC Strategic Plan. Commissioner Stoker seconded. Motion passed.**

40 Commission staff will draft the positions identified for revision and bring forward at future meetings.

41 A discussion followed. The Commission will determine if new position statements will be created.

Proposed WSCC 2006 Meeting Schedule

Mark Clark presented the proposed dates and locations for the 2006 Commission Meetings.

A discussion followed on holding the March meeting in the western region due to legislative session.

Vice Chair Brown moved to approve the 2006 Commission Meeting Schedule. Commissioner Selby seconded. Motion passed.

January 18, 2006	Field Tour/Interaction Dinner	Thurston Conservation District
January 19, 2006	Commission Meeting	Lacey, WA
March 15, 2006	Field Tour/Interaction Dinner	King Co. Conservation District
March 16, 2006	Commission Meeting	Seattle, WA
May 16, 2006	Field Tour/Interaction Dinner	Kittitas Co. County Conservation District
May 17, 2006	Planning Meeting	Ellensburg, WA
May 18, 2006	Commission Meeting	Ellensburg, WA
July 19, 2006	Field Tour/Interaction Dinner	Clark Conservation District
July 20, 2006	Commission Meeting	To be determined
September 20, 2006	Field Tour/Interaction Dinner	Whidbey Island Conservation District
September 21, 2006	Commission Meeting	To be determined
November 30, 2006	Commission Meeting	Spokane

WSCC Work Plan Update

Mark Clark reported that a meeting was held with the Washington State University Extension and the Environmental Protection Agency. They discussed ways in which they could further enhance relationships between districts. Commissioner Adams participated. Updates will be given in the upcoming months.

2005 National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA) Annual Meeting

Mark Clark gave an update of the successful meeting held in Seattle. Two tours were offered outside of the regular meeting: Mt. St. Helens and the San Juan Islands. Mr. Clark congratulated Butch Ogden, Field Service Manager, for a job well done in facilitating and coordinating the tour of Mt. St. Helens.

Valoria Loveland, Director of the Department of Agriculture, was a guest speaker and addressed the group. She is also the Vice President of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA). She spoke of how NASCA and NASDA can work together on the challenges they face.

In conjunction with the NASCA Meeting, Ray Ledgerwood, Program Coordinator, coordinated and facilitated a field staff collaboration meeting with the other states. It was well attended. There is a desire to continue to offer a field staff meeting with future NASCA meetings.

Mr. Clark is currently serving as the interim Vice President of NASCA. In December, he will become the Treasurer.

Commissioner Bahrych congratulated the Commission staff on the success of the meeting.

Commission Proposed Administrative Policies

Proposed Revised Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Representative Policy

Mary Anderson, Executive Assistant, presented the proposed revised NRCS Representative Policy.

Vice Chair Brown moved to approve the proposed revised Natural Resources Conservation Service Representative Policy. Commissioner Boyum seconded. Motion passed.

Proposed Revised Commission Member, Designees and Executive Director Travel

The Commission requested that the policy be simplified. The proposed policy combined the Out-of-State Travel Authorization and Interim Approval for Commission Member Travel into one policy. Commission staff will revise and bring forward at a future Commission Meeting.

1 ***Conservation Resource Management (CRM) Task Force Update***

2 Mark Clark reported that the CRM Taskforce has struggled with personnel issues. Ray Ledgerwood
3 facilitated a planning session with the Task Force. Action items, dates and responsibilities were
4 determined at the session.

5 ***CRM Executive Committee Meeting and Annual Tour – October 18-19***

6 An invitation was given to the Commissioners to attend.

7 ***Burn Update – School Fire***

8 Mark Clark brought forward a request from Duane Bartels of the Pomeroy Conservation District for help
9 from the Commission. Columbia Conservation District may also be in need. Pomeroy and Columbia
10 Conservation Districts are looking at the grants that are available to help as well. Mr. Bartels stated that
11 there is a need for approximately \$100,000 - \$225,000 within the next fourteen days.

12 Mr. Clark noted that he is currently discussing these needs with other agencies and partnerships to see if
13 there is funding available and will continue to coordinate with them on meeting the need. There are
14 possibly two ways for the Commission to get funding for this fire. The Governor's Emergency Funding or
15 the Office of Financial Management (OFM) could go through the legislative staff and ask them to replace
16 the Commission budget if we were to use current Commission general funds.

17 Mr. Clark asked that the Commission support coordination with other sources of funding and action to
18 supplement with the Commissions general fund budget and seek replacement through OFM to the
19 legislative staff for this emergency funding.

20 **Commissioner Boyum moved to empower the staff to seek funding**
21 **for conservation practices to mitigate the effects of the fire. After funding**
22 **is sought from other sources, the Commission approves funding at a**
23 **maximum of \$200,000 for the school fire, with the proper nexus and**
24 **understanding that an attempt will be made to ask the legislature to refill**
25 **the operating budget with a maximum of \$200,000. Vice Chair Brown**
26 **seconds. Motion passed.**

27 A discussion followed regarding other funding sources. Mr. Clark will continue to seek other funding
28 sources. WSCC Resolution No. 05-01 School Fire was created.

29 ***Land Use Discussions***

30 Stu Trefry, Puget Sound Regional Manager, reported that Governor Gregoire has asked a group of
31 agencies to brainstorm legislation in six subject areas: Timelines of the GMA, GMA Board Appeals
32 Process, Best Available Science (BAS), Eminent Domain, Alternative Business Uses on Farms, and
33 potential Agriculture pilot projects on land use. The Policy Consensus Center (UW/WSU) will be helping
34 the Administration with defining what an Ag pilot project would look like. Mr. Trefry is participating in
35 this groups dealing with BAS and the Ag Pilot Project.

36 In early October, sessions will be held in Olympia to hear the ideas. A month long comment period will be
37 held after the sessions. Those comments will be used to redraft the proposals and then given to the Office
38 of Financial Management. The Governor will be kept apprised on the progress of the process and will look
39 at the ideas and make the decision on how she will pursue.

40 ***Supplemental Funding Request***

41 A decision package for federal spending authority will be requested. The Commission directed the
42 Executive Director to move forward.

43 ***25 by 25 Ag Role***

44 Read Smith asked that the Commission consider sponsoring and endorsing the Ag Energy Work Group.

45 Commissioner Bahrych suggested the Commission take it under advisement until Commission members
46 have the opportunity to read the endorsement request. Mark Clark will research and communicate with the
47 Commissioners.

FIELD SERVICE MANAGERS REPORT

Stu Trefry, Puget Sound Region Field Service Manager, gave the report.

Central Region Field Service Manager, Butch Ogden

- Benton and Okanogan CD – Working on assessment. Public hearings have been held and resolutions have been sent to the county.

Southwest Region Field Service Manager, Tom Salzer

- Cowlitz CD – Kelly Niemi resigned as supervisor.
- Mason CD – John Bolendar resigned. District will be recruiting a district manager.

Eastern Region Field Service Manager, Bill Broughton

- Stevens Co. CD and Stevens County – Ray Ledgerwood is leading the effort for a 25 year long range plan. Innovative ideas have come forward to include all residents in the county.
- NRCS TQM Quality Steering Team – beginning to function again.

Puget Sound Region Field Service Manager, Stu Trefry

- San Juan Co. CD – assessment approved.
 - Represented NASCA on the NACD Urban, Community & Coastal Resources Committee.
-

OTHER BUSINESS

Nominating Committee for the 2006 Chair and Vice Chair

The Nominating Committee was formed with the following members: Commissioner Boyum, Commissioner Stoker and Gus Hughbanks of NRCS.

The Committee will bring a recommendation forward at the December 2005 Commission Meeting.

COMMENTS

Public Comments

No comments were given.

Commission Chair Closing Comments

Chair Peters announced that the Squaxin Island Tribal Council is more supportive of his participation on the Commission. In January, the Council will review the commitment and participation with the Commission.

The Tribal Council feels that the goals are similar in natural resources. The letter written by the Commission in support of continuing on the Commission was well received. The Tribe has a positive relationship and works closely with the Thurston and Mason Conservation Districts.

2

3 **NEXT COMMISSION MEETING**

4 Regular Commission Meeting:

5 **December 1, 2005**

6 Yakima Convention Center

7 10 N. 8th Street

8 Yakima, Washington

9

10 **ADJOURNMENT**

11 Chair Peters adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.